

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1(currently amended). Apparatus for forming a pleat in a separate, flexible component spanning and joining first and second, spaced apart, juxtaposed, file folder components together at one side of ~~the~~ a folder comprising the flexible component and the juxtaposed file folder components, said apparatus comprising:

~~stationary~~, motionless, first and second creasing components and a third, stationary creasing component;

the first and second creasing components being located to engage the flexible component in spaced apart locations between the file folder components on a first side of the flexible component;

the third creasing component being positioned to engage the flexible component at a location between the locations of the first and second creasing components and on the opposite side of the flexible component from the first and second creasing components; and

the apparatus further comprising an arrangement for so moving the folder relative to the creasing components that the widths of the juxtaposed file folder components remain unchanged as the folder is moved relative to the creasing components.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which the distance between the first and second, spaced apart creasing components decreases in ~~the~~ a direction of movement of the folder.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously submitted). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 which has the capability of forming a pleat between first and second file folder components which are front and back file folder panels.

Claim 6 (previously submitted). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 which has the capability of forming a pleat between first and second file folder components which are a front or back folder panel and an internal divider.

Claim 7 (previously submitted). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 which has the capability of forming a pleat between first and second file folder components which are internal dividers.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended). Apparatus as defined in claim 7 12 which comprises first and second stationary components for respectively supporting the first and second folder components in said parallel, spaced apart relationship.

Claim 10 (new). Apparatus for forming a pleat in a flexible component spanning and joining first and second, spaced apart, juxtaposed file folder components together at one side of a folder comprising the flexible component and the juxtaposed file folder components, said apparatus comprising:

stationary first and second creasing components and a third, stationary creasing component;

the first and second creasing components being located to engage the flexible component in spaced apart locations between the file folder components on a first side of the flexible component;

the third creasing component being positioned to engage the flexible component at a location between the locations of the first and second creasing components and on the opposite side of the flexible component from the first and second creasing components;

the first, second and third creasing components all having discrete, flexible component-engageable edges and those component-engageable edges being so contoured that, as the folder is moved relative to the creasing components, the distances in the direction of travel of the folder between: (a) the edges of the first and second creasing components, and (b) the edge of the third creasing component so change that the flexible component is pushed into a space between the first and second creasing components, and the flexible component is consequentially creased and folded by the first, second and third creasing components at locations of the folder corresponding to component-engageable edges of the creasing components.

Claim 11 (new). Apparatus for forming a pleat in a flexible component spanning and joining first and second, spaced apart, juxtaposed, file folder components together at one side of a folder comprising the flexible component and the juxtaposed file folder components, said apparatus comprising:

stationary first and second creasing components and a third, stationary creasing component;

the first and second creasing components being located to engage the flexible component in spaced apart locations between the file folder components on a first side of the flexible component;

the third creasing component being so positioned to engage the flexible component at a location between the locations of the first and second creasing components on the opposite side of the flexible component from the first and second creasing components as to: (a) form a crease in the flexible component, and (b) displace the creased tape to a locus between the first and second file folder components at one side of the folder; and

the apparatus further comprising crease setting mechanism independent of and downstream from the creasing components for compressing the part of the folder where the flexible component is located to set the crease in the flexible component made by the creasing components; and

the apparatus further comprising an arrangement for moving the folder relative to the creasing components and the crease setting mechanism.

Claim 12 (new). Apparatus for forming a pleat in a separate, flexible component spanning and joining first and second, spaced apart, juxtaposed, file folder components together at one side of a folder comprising the flexible component and the juxtaposed file folder components, said apparatus comprising:

stationary first and second creasing components and a third, stationary creasing component;

the first and second creasing components being located to engage the flexible component in spaced apart locations between the file folder components on a first side of the flexible component;

the third creasing component being positioned to engage the flexible component at a location between the locations of the first and second creasing components and on

the opposite side of the flexible component from the first and second creasing components; and

the apparatus further comprising an arrangement for moving the folder to the creasing components;

the arrangement for moving the folder to the creasing components comprising a conveyor for moving said folder from a location upstream of the creasing components to said creasing components with said folder initially in an orientation in which the first and second folder components are in side-by-side relationship; and

the apparatus also having mechanism comprising a plow which is separate from all of the creasing components and is located, entirely, upstream from all of the creasing components for rotating one of the folder components into a parallel, spaced apart relationship with another of the folder components.

13 (new). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 which has multiple sets of the first, second, and third creasing components:

the first, second, and third components of one creasing component set being positioned to engage one segment of the flexible component at locations between a back panel folder component and an internal divider folder component; and

the first, second, and third components of a second creasing component set being positioned to engage a second segment of the flexible component at locations between the internal divider folder component and a front panel folder component.

Claim 14 (new). Apparatus as defined in claim 13 which has at least a third set of first, second, and third creasing components;

the first, second, and third components of the third creasing set being positioned to engage a third segment of the flexible component at locations between two internal divider folder components.

Claim 15 (new). Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the first and second creasing components are positioned to engage a first flexible component segment which extends between a back panel folder component and a front panel folder component and the third creasing component is positioned to engage a second flexible component segment which overlies the first segment and secures an internal divider between the back and front panel folder components, the creasing components consequentially and concomitantly forming creases in both the first and the second flexible component segments.